

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 19-31 are canceled, and claim 32 is added. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners DiRamio and Gabel in the April 11 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0154248 to McGrew et al. (McGrew); rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,658,732 to Ebersole et al. (Ebersole); rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0033700 to Takeuchi et al. (Takeuchi); rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,605,662 to Heller et al. (Heller); and rejects claims 9, 12, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0214200 to Thompson et al. (Thompson). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the thick area is separate from the thin area in plan view." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 1-6.

As discussed during the personal interview, McGrew and any of the other applied references fail to teach or disclose a thick area that is separate from a thin area in plan view. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Claim 32

Support for claim 32 can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 1-6. claim 32 is patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for additional features it recites.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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